



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Agenda

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager (860)441-6630

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Thursday, July 17, 2008

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 2

SPECIAL MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

II. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2008-0163 Proclamation for Relay for Life

Proclamation - TC

III. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

This is the portion of the Council Agenda where the Council welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to five (5) minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be related to matters pertinent to Groton. Town Councilors will only ask questions in order to clarify the speaker's presentation and can respond during the Responses to Citizens' Petitions portion of the Town Council meeting. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

IV. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under Item V (Consent Calendar) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will take place, unless cause is shown prior to the time Council votes on the motion to adopt.

a. Approval of Minutes

2008-0176 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of July 1, 2008 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Administrative Items

2008-0173 Special Trust Fund Contributions

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Various Donations - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Groton Utilities Matching Funds - April and May - \$626.78 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Jeffrey Callahan - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Harold Waters - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce - \$500.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

L. Ravsen - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Edwina Trentham and Gregory Coleman - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Sally McBee and Bruce Campbell - \$25.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

L. Barrett - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Daniel and Jane Brannegan - \$250.00 plus additional \$250.00 from Pfizer matching - Arts Cafe

Miscellaneous

Alice W. Houston - \$10 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Gray Jacobik and Bruce N. Gregory - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2008-0093	Council Goalsetting	Referral
2008-0177	Appointment of Joan Warren to Library Board	Referral
2008-0178	Appointment of James Loughline Jr. to Cable TV Advisory Council	Referral
2008-0179	Appointment of Roger Roy to Cable TV Advisory Council	Referral

VI. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

- a. Town Councilors
- b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting
- c. Clerk of the Council
- d. Town Manager
- e. Town Attorney

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Brown-Tracy
- b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond
- c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski
- d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets
- e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt
- f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne
- g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter
- h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Monteiro
- i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

2008-0093	Council Goalsetting	Referral
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RESOLUTION ADOPTING TWENTY-SIXTH GROTON TOWN COUNCIL GOALS

WHEREAS, a statement of the vision and priorities of the Groton Town Council is beneficial as guidance for both the professional administrators and the citizens of the Town of Groton, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 26th Groton Town Council adopts the following MISSION/ COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT:

- 1) The Town Council is committed to promoting the health, safety and general welfare of the community, fostering public awareness and active participation in safeguarding the community, and maintaining the confidence of the citizens.

- 2) The Town Council will plan for the community's future and represent Groton's citizens while maintaining the highest standard of ethical behavior.
- 3) The Town Council will foster positive communication with the Town's boards and commissions, political subdivisions, and state, regional, military and other federal agencies.
- 4) The Town Council will work to establish fairness and equity in taxation.
- 5) The Town Council will work to assure that Groton is a desirable place to live and work, by providing sufficient services, stimulating economic growth, protecting the environment, and preserving the community's historic character.
- 6) The Town Council will support Town staff and employees through improved communication and clear policy direction; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 26th Groton Town Council adopts the following GOALS:

Work to influence legislative policy at the regional, state and federal levels. Work to make state legislature more responsive to towns and be proactive in identifying legislative policy issues important to the Groton community. Support total tax restructuring at the state level.

Early in the budget cycle (prior to November 1st) work with the Town Manager and Board of Education with a goal to reduce spending.

Review, monitor, and implement as desired the recommendations in the Economic Development Strategic Plan and Plan of Conservation and Development.

Encourage land use agencies to address the issues of clean air, clean water, global warming, and residential sprawl, and consider adoption of alternative "smart growth" concepts.

Periodically meet with land use agencies (Planning, Zoning, and Inland Wetlands Agency) to receive updates on the revision of land use regulations.

Develop and implement a Town-wide property maintenance code.

Support and participate in the various state and local committees working to protect the future of the U. S. Submarine Base and improve communications between the Town of Groton and the Submarine Base so as to develop a far-reaching and stronger relationship between the Town of Groton and the Submarine Base.

Monitor the development of Phase II of the school improvement project.

Consider the recommendations of the school reuse committees.

Legislative History

4/4/2008	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
4/22/2008	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	
Mayor Watson asked the Council how they would like to develop goals. The consensus was to look at the last Council's goals and mark them up and then send them back to the Town Manager's Office for compilation. Councilor O'Beirne also suggested that Councilors individually look at the goals as a performance evaluation and report card.			
5/13/2008	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	

there is no responsibility assigned or degree of urgency identified for the goals. Councilor Sheets feels there is value to the exercise of setting goals. She suggested that the current project to revise the land use regulations contributes to a number of the goals. Councilors were asked again to review the goals, make suggestions, and forward their comments to Mayor Watson for next week.

5/29/2008 Town Council Committee of Tabled
the Whole

6/24/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole

Councilors were asked again to forward their comments to the Mayor. A special meeting was scheduled for July 1st at 6:30 p.m. to talk about this issue.

7/1/2008 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

Mayor Watson started by reviewing comments that he received from Councilor Streeter on goals.

Councilor O'Beirne updated the Council on issues under consideration by the Charter Revision Committee.

Mayor Watson suggested reviewing the 25th Council's goals line by line. Councilor O'Beirne asked if the Council will actually follow up on specific goals. Councilor Kolnaski agreed with only having goals that the Council feels it can accomplish. Councilor O'Beirne suggested that if the goals include specific tasks, that individual Councilors be assigned responsibility.

Working off of the 25th Town Council's goals, the consensus of the group was to keep the mission/vision statement as it appears (items 1 through 6).

The goals were discussed bullet by bullet with the following modifications made:

STRIKE - Cultivate a shared understanding of the mission/vision statement within the community.

Work to influence legislative policy at the regional, state and federal levels. Work to make state legislature more responsive to towns and be proactive in identifying legislative policy issues important to the Groton community. Support total tax restructuring at the state level.

STRIKE - Investigate the creation of a Reservoir and Watershed Protection Plan and Commission.

STRIKE - Semi-annually review and implement desired recommendations of the Plan of Conservation and Development.

STRIKE - Identify number, proportion, and location of residents placed at risk by revaluation and its tax impacts.

Early in the budget cycle (prior to November 1st) work with the Town Manager and Board of Education with a goal to reduce spending.

STRIKE - Work for property tax reform at the state level, such as supporting SB 535.

STRIKE - Monitor and support improvements to the Groton Senior Center.

STRIKE - Continue to monitor and evaluate existing emergency management plans, including installation and maintenance of back up generation at Fitch High School, Town Hall, and the sewage treatment plant.

Review, monitor, and implement as desired the recommendations in the Economic Development Strategic Plan and Plan of Conservation and Development.

STRIKE - Discourage the creation of an agency with the power of eminent domain.

Encourage land use agencies to address the issues of clean air, clean water, global warming, and residential sprawl, and consider adoption of alternative "smart growth" concepts.

Periodically meet with land use agencies (Planning, Zoning, and Inland Wetlands Agency) to receive updates on the revision of land use regulations.

Develop and implement a Town-wide property maintenance code.

Support and participate in the various state and local committees working to protect the future of the U. S. Submarine Base and improve communications between the Town of Groton and the Submarine Base so as to develop a far-reaching and stronger relationship between the Town of Groton and the Submarine Base.

Monitor the development of Phase II of the school improvement project.

STRIKE - Support investigation of aspects of regionalism.

STRIKE - The Town Council will inform itself about the estimated impact of reduction in workforces for the Town's major employers.

STRIKE - Establish a committee to conduct a feasibility study for the purpose of establishing a community/cultural center for Groton's citizens.

Consider the recommendations of the school reuse committees.

Councilor Bond arrived at 7:25 p.m.

**7/1/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole**

Councilor O'Beirne distributed a Charter Revision timetable.

Mayor Watson reviewed a suggestion from Councilor Sheets received by e-mail.

**7/8/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole**

**7/8/2008 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution**

2008-0177 Appointment of Joan Warren to Library Board

Referral

RESOLUTION APPOINTING JOAN WARREN TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Joan Warren, 234 Elm Street, is appointed to the Library Board for a term ending 12/31/09.

Legislative History

**7/8/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee**

**2008-0178 Appointment of James Loughline Jr. to Cable TV
Advisory Council**

Referral

RESOLUTION APPOINTING JAMES J. LOUGHLIN, JR. TO THE CABLE TV ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESOLVED, that James J. Loughlin, Jr., 35 West Mystic Avenue, Mystic, is appointed to the Cable TV Advisory Council for a term ending 7/1/09.

Legislative History

**7/8/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee**

**2008-0179 Appointment of Roger Roy to Cable TV Advisory
Council**

Referral

RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROGER ROY TO THE CABLE TV ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESOLVED, that Roger A. Roy 300 Brandegge Avenue, #200, is appointed to the Cable TV Advisory Council for a term ending 7/1/09.

Legislative History

7/8/2008

Town Council
Personnel/Appointments/Rules
/Legislation CommitteeRecommended for a
Resolution**IX. ADJOURNMENT**